

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 SP-01 SS-14 STR-01 INR-10 SIL-01

L-02 H-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /051 W

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S E C R E T 5984

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FOR HUMMEL AND ALDRICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: DECREES AND POLICY STATEMENTS RELATING TO EXPIRATION OF
LAUREL LANGLEY

REF: A. MANILA 5784 B. MANILA 5811

1. WE ARE INFORMED THAT PRESIDENT AND CABINET COMMITTEE
MET TWICE LAST WEEKEND TO DISCUSS TEXTS OF PROCLAMATION
AND DECREES FORWARDED REF B ACCORDING TO SEVERAL CABINET
SOURCES, DOCUMENTS THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN AGREED AND HAVE BEEN
PREPARED IN FINAL FORM FOR PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE.

2. DURING CABINET COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, THERE
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN GENERAL EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT
PHILIPPINES WAS "GIVING AWAY THE STORE," WITHOUT ANY QUID PRO
QUO FROM U.S. PRESIDENT HAS THEREFORE BEEN ENJOINED BY
HIS COUNSELORS TO DELAY ACTION UNTIL THERE IS SOME
UNSPECIFIED INDICATION OF MOVEMENT BY U.S. SIDE. ACCORDING
TO MELCHOR, PRESIDENT WAS PERSONALLY PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD
ON LAND TITLE PROCLAMATION, BUT HAS DEFERRED TO RECOMMENDATIONS

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OF HIS CABINET.

3. THIS MORNING I ASKED VIRATA WHEN WE MIGHT EXPECT ACTION ON THE DOCUMENTS. HE GAVE SOMEWHAT EVASIVE REPLY, BUT THEN POINTEDLY ASKED WHEN PHILS MIGHT EXPECT TO SEE THE NEW VERSION OF OUR PROPOSED TREATY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. I SAID THAT DRAFT WAS BEING CLEARED INTERDEPARTMENTALLY IN WASHINGTON, BUT THAT I HOPED TO HAVE SOMETHING SOON.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PHILS HAVE GONE INTO HOLDING PATTERN BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY PROVIDE ANYTHING MORE THAN GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS A TREATY ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. THIS DELAY, WHILE PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT PREJUDICING ULTIMATE NATURE OF DOCUMENTS CONTAINED REF B, WILL UNDERSTANDABLY CONTINUE TO WORRY THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY. I SHALL ATTEMPT TO PROD PRESIDENT MARCOS WHEN I SEE HIM MORNING MAY 23. HOWEVER, UNLESS I HAVE SOME MORE CONCRETE INDICATIONS OF U.S. INTENTIONS THAN I CURRENTLY POSESS, IT WOULD BE RASH TO PREDICT THAT WE WILL HAVE TIMELY PHIL ACTION. I HOPE, THEREFORE, SISCO'S ABSENCE DOES NOT RPT NOT DELAY YOUR MEETING AND THAT YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME ASSURANCES BY IMMEDIATE CABLE TO ARRIVE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MAY 23.

5. WE WILL SEND SEPARATE CABLE REPORTING ON U.S. BUSINESS REACTIONS TO PROPOSED PHIL TEXTS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON PHIL TARIFFS ON AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND QUESTION OF FORESHORE LEASES.

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